

Low Desert Planting & Harvest Calendar

Brought to you by the Urban Farm, Greg Peterson and Matt Suhr
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Updated October 2020 by Raymond Jess & Greg Peterson to reflect changing climate conditions.

| Low Desert Planting & Harvest Calendar | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|----------|--|--------------------------------------|
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| Updated October 2020 by Raymond Jess & Greg Peterson to reflect changing climate conditions. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Crop | Hardiness | Month | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Comments | | |
| | | JAN 1 | JAN 15 | FEB 1 | FEB 15 | MAR 1 | MAR 15 | APR 1 | APR 15 | MAY 1 | MAY 15 | JUN 1 | JUN 15 | JUL 1 | JUL 15 | AUG 1 | AUG 15 | SEP 1 | SEP 15 | OCT 1 | OCT 15 | NOV 1 | NOV 15 | DEC 1 | DEC 15 | | | |
| Artichoke—Globe | 20 | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | s/t | s/ | t | t | t | t | t | Light frost helps first year harvest. | |
| --Jerusalem | <0 | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Comes back every year. Plant from bulb/rhizome | |
| Asparagus | <0 | | | b | b | b | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | b | b | b | b | | | Don't harvest until 3rd year. | |
| Bean—Blackeye | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Performs well in full summer heat. | |
| --Fava | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | Dislikes heat. | |
| --Garbanzo | 25 | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Stays low to ground. | |
| --Green snap | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Seed will rot if planted in cold soil. | |
| --Lentil | 25 | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry. | |
| --Lima | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Does best with trellis. | |
| --Pinto | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Harvest entire plant and thresh when dry. | |
| --Soy | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Use special varieties for edamame. | |
| --Yardlong | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Black-seeded types do best. | |
| Beet | 25 | | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | Be sure to thin if you want big beets. | |
| Bok Choy | 22 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Bolts quickly in Spring. | |
| Broccoli—head | 25 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Light frost improves flavor. | |
| --Raab | 25 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Pick frequently to maintain production. | |
| --Romanesco | 27 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Allow 15" spacing between plants. | |
| Brussels Sprout | 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Only early hybrids do well. "Oliver" is best. | |
| Cabbage—Chinese | 24 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Heads form quickly. Be sure to thin. | |
| --standard | 26 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Red varieties take a little longer to head. | |
| Carrot | 23 | | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Slow to sprout—mix in a few radish seeds. | |
| Cauliflower | 27 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Fold leaves over exposed heads. | |
| Celery | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | Often stringy and bitter in desert conditions. | |
| Collards | 25 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | t | Light frost improves flavor. | |
| Corn—flour | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Allow to totally dry on stalk. | |
| --ornamental | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Plant in blocks for good pollination. | |
| --popcorn | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Harder kernels than flour corn. | |
| --sweet | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Supersweet var. need very warm soil to sprout. | |
| Cucumber—Armenian | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Withstands heat better than standard types. | |
| --standard | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Harvest frequently for best quality. | |
| Eggplant | 32 | | | | | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Best production in Fall. | |
| Endive | 25 | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Pull leaves over center to blanch. | |
| Garlic | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | b | b | b | | | | | | | Harvest when tops die back. | |
| Jicama | 32 | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | Does well with trellis. | |
| Kale | 22 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | Pick outer leaves for continual harvest. | |
| Leek | 15 | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s/bs/bs/bs/b | | | | | | | | | Pile dirt over stalks to blanch. | |
| Lettuce—head | 28 | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | Allow 8-12" per plant for big heads. |
| --leaf | 28 | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | Won't sprout in hot soil. |
| Melons | 32 | | | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | | | | | | | | | | | Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room. | |
| Mizuna | 25 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Good as baby greens or full-size. | |

Crop

Comments

| Crop | Hardiness Temp | JAN 1 | JAN 15 | FEB 1 | FEB 15 | MAR 1 | MAR 15 | APR 1 | APR 15 | MAY 1 | MAY 15 | JUN 1 | JUN 15 | JUL 1 | JUL 15 | AUG 1 | AUG 15 | SEP 1 | SEP 15 | OCT 1 | OCT 15 | NOV 1 | NOV 15 | DEC 1 | DEC 15 | Comments |
|------------------------|----------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|--|
| Mustard Greens | 27 | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s/t | t | t | Light frost improves flavor. |
| Okra | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s/b | b/s/b | b | b | b | b | Pick frequently to maintain production. |
| Onion--bulb | 15 | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | Harvest when tops die back. Use short-day type. |
| --multiplier | 15 | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | Don't produce seed. Divide to propagate. Eat tops & use long-day type. |
| --scallion | 15 | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | Use long-day type. |
| Parship | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Dig root before flower stalks form. |
| Peas | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Does best with trellis. Blooms are frost-tender. |
| Pepper | 32 | | | s | s | s/t | s/t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | s/t | s/t | | | | | | Start indoors in winter. Best harvest in fall from plants planted in spring. |
| Potato | 32 | | b | b | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Harvest when in full bloom. Red potatoes do best. |
| Pumpkin | 32 | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Plant June 15 for Halloween. |
| Radish | 25 | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | Do best when day-length is short. |
| Rutabaga | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Harvest before flower stalks form. |
| Spinach | 22 | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | Bolts quickly in Spring. |
| Squash--summer | 32 | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Pick frequently to maintain production. |
| --winter | 32 | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | The longer they are left on the vine, the sweeter. |
| Sunflower | 32 | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Quite drought-tolerant |
| Sweet Potato | 32 | | | | | | | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | b | | | | | | | | | | Cure tubers in warm place before storage. |
| Swiss chard | 26 | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Pick outer leaves for continual harvest. |
| Tomatillo | 32 | s | s | s | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | t | t | | | | | | Easy. Start seeds indoors for planting after last frost. |
| Tomato | 32 | s | s | s | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | t | t | | | | | | Do best w/ shade cloth. Start seeds indoors for planting after last frost. |
| Turnip | 25 | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Best flavor in cool weather. |
| Watermelon | 32 | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | Rich soil, lots of H2O, lots of room. |
| Herbs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Arugula-Annual | 15 | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | May be planted thickly. |
| Basil-Annual/Perennial | 32 | s | s | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | Plants don't like cold & will slow down in winter. Frost flowers attract beneficial insects. |
| Cilantro-Annual | 28 | s/t | s/t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | Flowers attract beneficial insects. |
| Dill-Annual | 27 | s/t | s/t | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | s/t | Very easy from seed. Does not transplant well. |
| Fennel--bulb variety | 27 | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Leave some bulbs in the ground for perennial harvest. |
| --herb/leaves | 25 | s | s | s | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Flowers attract beneficial insects. |
| Lavender-Annual | 0 | | | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | Needs sandy soil. |
| Mint-Perennial | <0 | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | | | | | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | Can be invasive. Doesn't come true from seed. |
| Oregano-Perennial | <0 | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | Keep flowers trimmed for best leaf production. |
| Parsley-Annual | 20 | s | s | s | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | s | s | s | s | s | s | s | Very slow to germinate. Otherwise easy. Self seeds annually |
| Rosemary-Perennial | | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | Harvest year around. |
| Sage-Perennial | <0 | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | Many varieties with different requirements. |
| Thyme-Perennial | <0 | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | | | | | | | | t | t | t | t | t | t | t | Prefers sandy soil. |

Hardiness Note Hardiness temp, is the point at which damage occurs in exposed plants. Extent of damage depends on length of exposure, as well as micro-environmental factors. Covering plants with frost cloth can give anywhere from 2 to 10 degrees of extra protection. Coverings are most effective when suspended close to, but not in contact with, the plant.

Microclimates The exact season of growing depends greatly on your particular microclimate. A microclimate is any area of your yard that is warmer or cooler than the rest of the yard: such as planting next to a block wall that retains heat into the night. Many frost sensitive plants can be grown through the winter in milder low desert locations, though with slower growth rates. Likewise, with appropriate shading many heat-sensitive crops can be grown into the summer months in outlying areas with cooler nights, though quality and vigor can be reduced.

Maricopa County Garden Planting Calendar for Annual Fruits and Vegetables The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

| Fruit • Vegetable | Time to Harvest | Jan. | | Feb. | | March | | April | | May | | June | | July | | August | | Sept. | | Oct. | | Nov. | | Dec. | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------|----|------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-----|----|------|----|------|----|--------|----|-------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|
| | | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 |
| Artichokes, Globe | 4-6 months | | T | T | T | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Artichokes, Jerusalem | 6-8 months | | T | T | T | T | T | T | T | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S |
| Asparagus | 2-3 years | T | T | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | T | T | T | T |
| Basil | T = 30 S = 60-75 days | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beans, Lima | 60-100 days | | | | | | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beans, Pinto | 60-90 days | | | | | | | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beans, Snap | 60-90 days | | | | | | S | S | S | | | | | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | |
| Beans, Yardlong | 60-90 days | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Beets | 60-80 days | S | S | S | S | | S | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Blackeyed Peas | 90-120 days | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bok Choy | 45 days | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Broccoli | T=90-100 S=120-130 days | TS | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Brussel Sprouts | T=100-120 S=130-150 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Cabbage | T=80-90 S=120-130 days | TS | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Cabbage, Chinese | T=45 S=70-80 days | TS | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Carrots | 60-100 days | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Cauliflower | T=90-100 S=120-130 days | TS | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Celery | 120-150 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Chard | 60-90 days | TS | TS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Collard Greens | 80 days | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Corn, Sweet | 70-90 days | | | | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Cucumbers | 60-90 days | | | | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Cucumbers, Armenian | 55 days | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eggplant | 70-120 days | | | | | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Endive | 80-120 days | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |

S = Seeds T = Transplants X = Sets or Cloves

| Fruit • Vegetable | Time to Harvest | Jan. | | Feb. | | March | | April | | May | | June | | July | | August | | Sept. | | Oct. | | Nov. | | Dec. | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------|----|------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-----|----|------|----|------|----|--------|----|-------|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|
| | | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 |
| Garlic | 5-7 months | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | | |
| Kale | 60-90 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | SS |
| Kohlrabi | T=45-60 S=50-60 days | T | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | TS | TS | TS | T | T |
| Lettuce, Head | 50-100 days | TS | TS | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Lettuce, Leaf | 30-90 days | TS | TS | TS | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS | TS |
| Leek | 180-200 days | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | | | | | |
| Melons, Cantaloupe | 80-120 days | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Melons, Watermelon | 90-120 days | | | | | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Mustard | 35-45 days | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Okra | 70-100 days | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Onions, Bulb | Sets=4-5 months S=7-8 months | X | X | X | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | X | X |
| Onions, Green | 90-100 days | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Onions, Shallots | 80 - 110 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | X | | | | | | | | | | |
| Parsnips | 100-120 days | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | | |
| Peanuts | 5 months | | | | | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peas | Sept.=60-120 Nov.=120-150 days | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Peppers | 90-120 days | | | | T | T | T | | | | | | | T | T | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potatoes | 90-120 days | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Potatoes, Sweet | 120-160 days | | | | | T | T | T | T | T | T | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pumpkin | 90-120 days | | | | | S | S | | | | | | | S | S | S | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Radishes | 30-60 days | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Rutabagas | 100-120 days | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S |
| Spinach | 30-90 days | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Squash, Summer | 60-90 days | | | | S | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | S | S | | | | | | |
| Squash, Winter | 90-120 days | | | | | S | S | | | | | | | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | |
| Sunflower | 90-110 days | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | T | | | | | | | | | |
| Tomatoes | 50-120 days | | | | T | T | T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Turnips | 75-120 days | S | S | S | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | S | S | S | S | S | S | S | S |

S = Seeds T = Transplants X = Sets or Cloves



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension
Maricopa County - Master Gardeners